TO: Principal Waters

FROM: TaKesha Williams

RE: Implementing a Mentorship Program within Water Middle School

An issue is within our classroom walls that we cannot ignore. That issue is the lack of parental involvement. Many of our students are not intrinsically motivated to remain successful throughout the school year. When parents are needed to help the situation, there is a standstill due to the lack of involvement. Students need someone to admire and consistently be there for them. With the Mentorship Program, Support Teen Youth, we can bridge the gap between students with involved parents and students without involved parents to promote students’ success rates.

Most parents are involved, which makes the students without active parent participation feel like an outcast. These students are less likely to participate in after-school activities or clubs. Our core values state that students must aspire to be honest, caring, fair, respectful, and to have integrity. If Water Middle School implements a mentorship program like Support Teen Youth, we would be supporting our core values and we will be the first school in the district to effectively reach all of our students in a supportive way that shows that we care. The students will learn different studying techniques, manners, set goals, and so much more that they can apply to their everyday life to prepare them for the future. Since we are one of the top schools in the district, it would be meaningful if we lead the way in bridging the gap between students with active parent involvement and students without active parent involvement.

Students with positive parental involvement or mentorship have better test scores and better attendance than students without parental involvement. If all of our students are paired with a member of the growing business, Support Teen Youth, students will know that they have a support system and a school that will go through any avenue to promote student success. We want each student to be successful. Therefore, this mentorship program will alleviate the norm of having students report to the counselor, if they go at all.

If we were to assess students prior to implementing the mentorship program, then assess the students after the program had been implemented, statistics would show that parental or mentor involvement improves how students perform academically. Because of the team efforts between the teachers and Support Teen Youth Mentoring Program, test scores will increase, and when students take their state tests, they will be more likely to pass. Starting August 7, 2017, students will meet with our mentorship program and be assigned a mentor. The mentorship program will assign students a mentor at the beginning of the school year. And every third Friday, the Support Teen Youth Mentoring Program will come to the English Language Arts classes to speak to the students. These meeting times during classes will vary from whole class, split class, to one-on-one student engagement. The students will participate in a quarterly activity that builds character and ties into our core values of honesty, care, fairness, respect, and integrity. At the end of the year, the students will put together a portfolio including but not limited to written work, pictures, and/or artwork to express how their lives were before the mentoring program compared to now. A gallery show will occur in May 2018 of the students’ work. There is no cost to complete implement this mentoring program or to have the event. I thank you for your time and your consideration in supporting all of our students.